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Security Council

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Resolution 1496 (2003)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 4802nd meeting, on 31 July 2003

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on Lebanon, in particular resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and 1461 of 30 January 2003 as well as the statements of its President on the situation in Lebanon, in particular the statement of 18 June 2000 (S/PRST/2000/21),

Recalling further the letter from its President to the Secretary-General of 18 May 2001 (S/2001/500),

Recalling also the Secretary-General's conclusion that, as of 16 June 2000, Israel had withdrawn its forces from Lebanon in accordance with resolution 425 (1978) and met the requirements defined in the Secretary-General's report of 22 May 2000 (S/2000/460), as well as the Secretary-General's conclusion that United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had essentially completed two of the three parts of its mandate, focusing now on the remaining task of restoring international peace and security,

Emphasizing the interim nature of UNIFIL,

Recalling its resolution 1308 (2000) of 17 July 2000,

Recalling also its resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000,

Recalling further the relevant principles contained in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel adopted on 9 December 1994,

Responding to the request of the Government of Lebanon, as stated in the letter from its Permanent Representative to the United Nations of 2 July 2003 to the Secretary-General (S/2003/685),

1. *Endorses* the report of the Secretary-General on UNIFIL of 23 July 2003 (S/2003/728), and in particular its recommendation to renew the mandate of UNIFIL for a further period of six months;

2. *Decides* to extend the present mandate until 31 January 2004;

3. *Reiterates* its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries;

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4. *Welcomes* the steps already taken by the Government of Lebanon to ensure the return of its effective authority throughout the south, including the deployment of Lebanese armed forces, and *calls on* it to continue to extend these measures and to do its utmost to ensure a calm environment throughout the south;

5. *Calls on* the parties to ensure UNIFIL is accorded full freedom of movement in the discharge of its mandate throughout its area of operation as outlined in the Secretary-General's report;

6. *Reiterates its call on* the parties to continue to fulfil the commitments they have given to respect fully the withdrawal line identified by the United Nations, as set out in the Secretary-General's report of 16 June 2000 (S/2000/590), to exercise utmost restraint and to cooperate fully with the United Nations and UNIFIL;

7. *Condemns* all acts of violence, *expresses great concern* about the serious breaches and the air, sea and land violations of the withdrawal line, and *urges* the parties to put an end to these violations and to abide scrupulously by their obligation to respect the safety of UNIFIL and other United Nations personnel;

8. *Supports* the continued efforts of UNIFIL to maintain the ceasefire along the withdrawal line through mobile patrols and observation from fixed positions and through close contacts with the parties to correct violations, resolve incidents and prevent their escalation;

9. *Welcomes* the continued contribution of UNIFIL to operational demining, *applauds* the progress in demining efforts noted by the Secretary-General in his report, *encourages* further assistance in mine action by the United Nations to the Government of Lebanon in support of both the continued development of its national mine action capacity and emergency demining activities in the south, *commends* donor countries for supporting these efforts through financial and in-kind contributions and encourages further international contributions, *takes note* of the communication to the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL of maps and information on the location of mines and *stresses* the necessity to provide the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL with any additional maps and records on the location of mines;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue consultations with the Government of Lebanon and other parties directly concerned on the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Council before the end of the present mandate as well as on the activities of UNIFIL and the tasks presently carried out by the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO);

11. *Looks forward* to the early fulfilment of the mandate of UNIFIL;

12. *Stresses* the importance of, and the need to achieve, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all its relevant resolutions including its resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973.